



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

1604 Business 380, Suite 100, Decatur, Texas 76234

Phone: (940) 627-3531, Ext. 4 • Fax: (940) 627-5228 • TDD: (254) 742-9700 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>

Date: September 29, 2006
Release Number TX 336.06

Contact Name: Ray Copeland
Telephone Number: (940) 627-3531, Ext. 4
Email: Ray.Copeland@tx.usda.gov

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR BOWIE RURAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

BOWIE, TEXAS, September 29, 2006-- Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, today announced Bowie Rural Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) was selected to receive a \$16,300 loan and a \$23,700 grant through the Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program. This effort is part of the USDA Rural Development mission to help rural areas build and enhance essential community facilities.

“USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Programs help rural communities keep pace with the needs of their rising populations,” said Daniel. “Rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance the quality of life for all rural residents.”

The funds will be used to construct a new 50 x 60 fire station outside the City of Bowie with three bays facing the street and one bay on the side to park a longer truck perpendicular to the other three bays. Currently, three of the eight firefighting vehicles are not being housed due to the lack of facilities. During the winter months, these three trucks are basically out of service due to the required winterization for a truck not properly housed. The construction of the new fire station will house the vehicles and leave room for future growth in the Fire Department.

In Fiscal Year 2005, \$31.8 million in Community Facility Direct and Guaranteed Loans and over \$900,000 in grants were obligated in Texas. Funds are used to enhance the quality of life for residents of rural areas by providing the means for construction, expansion, or enhancement of community facilities, telecommunication and distance education programs, and water and waste disposal systems. These programs are important because they supply a number of growth opportunities to communities with improved utility facilities, increased job availability, and technology and educational resources. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development Community Programs have awarded \$1.8 billion for these purposes, and touched the lives of more than 1.16 million households in the process.

USDA Rural Development strives to see that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Decatur Local Office at (940) 627-3531, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

#

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).